

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 OPR-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 L-01 SCA-01 PRS-01 /038 W

----- 087709

P R 251031Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9974

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 5413

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, CB, TH, ID, MY, JA, PFOR, PINS, VS

SUBJECT: EVACUATION PLANS OF OTHER EMBASSIES

REF: PHNOM PENH 5406(NOTAL)

1. AMBASSADOR LEARNED YESTERDAY FROM JAPANESE AMBASSADOR KURINO THAT THAI, INDONESIAN AND MALAYSIAN EMBASSIES PLANNED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SPECIAL C-123 FLIGHT BEING ARRANGED BY THAI GOVERNMENT TO REDUCE STAFFS OF THEIR EMBASSIES BY SENDING SOME PEOPLE TO BANGKOK. THAI AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN RECALLED TO BANGKOK ON CONSULTATIONS, AND A GOOD PORTION OF HIS STAFF WOULD GO WITH HIM, BUT ALL THREE EMBASSIES WOULD REMAIN OPEN FOR PRESENT, ACCORDING TO KURINO. LATTER SAID HE HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED MOVE HIS EMBASSY TO BANGKOK BUT HE DID NOT INTEND DOING SO FOR NOW.

2. OVERNIGHT THIS SITUATION APPEARS TO HAVE CHANGED DRAMATICALLY, APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF 107MM ROCKETS HITS ON OR NEAR DIPLOMATIC PROPERTIES. THIS MORNING COLONEL TANABE, JAPANESE DEFENSE ATTACHE, TOLD DATT
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THAT AS RESULT OF A ROCKET LANDING "ON" INDONESIAN

AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, HE HAD DECIDED TO EVACUATE ALL OF HIS EMBASSY PERSONNEL ON THAI AIRCRAFT COMING INTO PHNOM PENH TOMORROW (MARCH 26). TANABE ADDED THAT BOTH THE THAIS AND THE MALAYSIANS HAD DECIDED TO CLOSE THEIR EMBASSIES HERE AND TO OPERATE TEMPORARILY FROM BANGKOK. THAIS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO EVACUATE ALL OF THEIR PERSONNEL IMMEDIATELY, BUT WOULD COMPLETE OPERATION "SOON".

3. JAPANESE EMBASSY ALSO HAD A ROCKET LAND CLOSE TO THEIR EMBASSY THIS MORNING, TANABE SAID. KURINO IS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING EVACUATING, BUT HAS NOT YET REACHED A DECISION.

4. WE OBVIOUSLY DID NOT HAVE THIS INFORMATION PRIOR TO MEETING WITH SOUTH VIETNAMESE COUNSELOR REPORTED REFTEL.

5. WITH REGARD TO THE THAIS, DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT IN ADDITION TO THE EMBASSY PROPER THERE IS A SEPARATE THAI MILITARY MISSION REPRESENTING THE GENERAL STAFF HERE IN PHNOM PENH. WE ASSUME THAT THIS MISSION IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE IN PLACE, UNDIMINISHED IN NUMBERS, WHATEVER DECISION MAY BE TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO THE THAI EMBASSY.

6. WE ARE SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL THAT TANABE'S INFORMATION IS COMPLETELY ACCURATE, BUT IN VIEW OF PROBABLE PRESS REPORTING THAT MAY BE FILED TONIGHT, THOUGHT WE OUGHT TO PROVIDE WHAT WE HAVE. WE WILL KNOW BETTER TOMORROW WHAT ACTUAL STATUS OF THESE FOREIGN MISSIONS IS.
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